



SPRING 2021

# THIS IS NEWS



CONNECTING TECHNOLOGY TO BUSINESS

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Students who earn a degree in information systems from the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas are fluent in English, business, and in the language, tools, and practice of technology and information systems. It's hard to overstate the importance of technology in the modern business world. It has become the engine that powers organizations, and that reality has created an extraordinarily high demand for these graduates. In fact, nearly 100% of Walton College graduates with a degree in information systems have a job secured before graduation, if that is their goal. These jobs have comparatively high starting salaries, so information systems is popular not only as a major at the Walton College but also as a minor and as an option for students

who pursue a double-major.

Because technology is a thread that runs through the entire fabric of the economy, graduates find work in just about any industry – oil and gas, health care, automotive, media and retail, just to name a few. It's the opportunity to work with people on business problems in any type of industry that draws many students to information systems. They realize that they get a chance to tap into their interests in technology without transforming into a Dilbert-like character with a classic pocket-protector and an aversion to interacting with people. Whatever the job is, though, graduates will be fluent in the languages needed to help turn technology into better business decisions.

*Walton College Insights Article by Stephen Caldwell.10/29/2020*



## GREETING FROM THE DEPARTMENT

DR. RAJIV SABHERWAL

*Distinguished Professor, Edwin & Karlee Bradberry Endowed Chair, and Chair of the Department of Information Systems. Fellow of IEEE and Fellow of the AIS*

The faculty, staff, and students in the Information Systems Department are driven by one common vision of being a top-five department in the world with significant global impact and excellence in research, teaching, and industry connections. Our pursuit of this vision is enabled by the strong support we receive from leaders and members across the Walton College and the University of Arkansas, as well as our numerous external partners.

The world continues to take notice of these efforts. At the recent (December 2020) International Conference on Information Systems, four ISYS faculty received tremendous recognitions.

The Association for Information Systems (AIS), an international organization with about 5,000 members that advances the knowledge and practice of information systems, honored Dr. Varun Grover with the LEO Award, which is awarded to scholars who have made a global impact in the information systems field, serve as a role model and exhibit exemplary professional and personal integrity. The AIS also recognized Dr. Mary Lacity, Dr. Zach Steelman, and Dr. Jeff Mullins, making Dr. Mullins the second ISYS faculty, after Dr. Abhijith Anand, to receive the prestigious AIS Doctoral Dissertation award.

*I am grateful to my departmental colleagues for their hard work and excellence, of which the recognitions and highlights in this newsletter are only a few reflections. We hope to be over the pandemic soon, so we can best continue our endeavors to enable an even better future for our students and all of our partners.*

# STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



*Assistant Professor of Information Systems and Technology Management at the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business*

RUBA ALJAFARI

"The ISYS department in the Walton College of Business provides a nurturing environment that prepares PhD students for research careers. Students get the privilege to take seminars with established scholars who are genuinely interested in students' success. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to acquire knowledge and key professional lessons from scholars through the ISYS department."

# ALUMNI NEWS

We are proud of all the Alumni of the Information Systems Department. They continue to make significant impacts and enjoy great achievements in their careers. A few examples:

## UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

- **Sabina Finfando** (2007), Senior Data Modeler, 3M
- **Jarvis Hines** (2013), Senior Business Analyst, Navitus Health Solutions
- **Sadeo Trotter** (2016), Business Technology Analyst, Deloitte Consulting
- **Julianna Holtzman** (2018), Senior Consultant, Bridgepoint Consulting
- **Abby Klingsmith** (2020), Assoc. Business Transformation Consultant, IBM
- **Rachel Lilly** (2020), ERP Platform Services Analyst, ConocoPhillips

## GRADUATE ALUMNI

- **Chris Whittle** (2009), Vice President of Support, Tesla Software
- **Dangqing Zhou** (2010), Customer Solution Adoption Specialist, SAP
- **Scott Williams** (2015), Senior Director Data Analytics, Walmart
- **David Bruce** (2016), CIO, Cleveland State University
- **Michelle Camberos** (2018), Senior Consultant, Ernst & Young
- **Dave Ferguson** (2019), Senior Director Risk Intelligence-Global Security, Walmart
- **Venkataraman B. Subramanian** (2019), Software Engineer, JB Hunt
- **Sid Jetani** (2020), Modular & Space Analytics Manager II, Walmart
- **Evelyn Day** (2020), Management Consultant, Credera
- **Zach Thiess** (2020), Software Developer, Federal Reserve Bank-Kansas City

## DOCTORAL ALUMNI

- **Hamid Reza Nikkhal** (2020), Bentley University
- **Franck Loic Soh Noume** (2020), University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- **Ali Balapour** (2021), University of Northern Kentucky
- **Soneil Goodarzi** (2020), State University of New York at Binghamton
- **Jennifer Large** (2021), Lamar University
- **Jeff Mullins** (2019), Walton College ISYS Department
- **Saifur Bhuiyan** (2020), University of Northern Iowa

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

DR. MARY LACITY

The Association for Information Systems (AIS) named Dr. Mary Lacity, the Walton Professor of Information Systems and Director of the Blockchain Center of Excellence in the Sam M. Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas, an AIS Fellow, at the annual International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) on Dec. 13, 2020. In addition, Lacity received both the Best Information Systems Publications Award and the Outreach Practice Publication Award from AIS in 2019.

*"Mary is a rare academic who has had a huge impact over the years on both the academic and practice sides of the field of information systems."  
-- Rajiv Sabherwal --*



"Walton College is so fortunate to have Mary Lacity as a professor and as the founder of our Blockchain Center of Excellence (BCoE)," said Matt Waller, Dean of the Walton College. Lacity has published 30 books, most recently Blockchain Fundamentals for the Internet of Value. Her publications have appeared in the Harvard Business Review, Sloan Management Review, MIS Quarterly, MIS Quarterly Executive, IEEE Computer, Communications of the ACM, and many other academic and practitioner outlets.

Lacity has held visiting positions at MIT, the London School of Economics, Washington University, and Oxford University. She is also senior editor for MIS Quarterly Executive. Her research focuses on the delivery of business and IT services through global sourcing and automation using Robotic Process Automation, Cognitive Automation and Blockchains.

# AWARDS & HONORS

- Dr. Varun Grover, the AIS LEO Award at ICIS 2020 and Distinguished Member Cum Laude at ICIS 2019
- Dr. Zach Steelman, the AIS Early Career Award at ICIS 2020
- Dr. Jeff Mullins, the AIS Doctoral Dissertation Award at ICIS 2020

- Dr. Carole Shook, the Graduate Student Congress Campus Leadership Award and named ASG/ Grad. Student Congress/ Provost's Office UofA Top 12 Professor, both in 2019
- Dr. Varun Grover and Dr. Carole Shook selected as 2 of the 12 UofA Outstanding Faculty Members for 2020

- Dr. Susan Bristow, inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Computing in 2020 and the April 2020 Wally Cores Chair recipient and honoree
- The University of Arkansas AIS Student Chapter named as an Outstanding Chapter for the 2019-2020 academic year

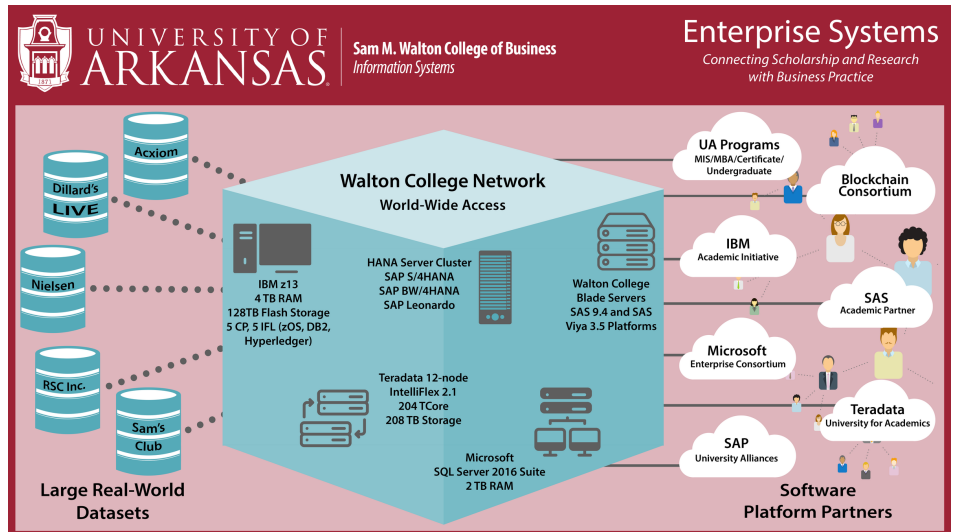
# ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS

DR. RON FREEZE

*Managing Director of the Walton College Enterprise Systems Program, Clinical Associate Professor in the Information Systems Department.*

As a premier source of academic enterprise curriculum and systems, the Walton Enterprise Systems Program supports education and research efforts at the University of Arkansas and around the world. Our academic programs and collaborations produce globally competitive students and world-leading faculty for teaching and research. These programs are made possible through the relationships we have with industry.

From impressive datasets to state-of-the-art systems to real-world exercises and use cases, we would



not be able to give our students the incredible resources we have if not for collaborating with industry members. The University of Arkansas is continually improving, sharing, and collaborating with other universities and campuses across the globe.

We want to thank our industry partners for their support in making these resources available to the University of Arkansas and to other universities without charge.

<https://walton.uark.edu/enterprise/>

## OUR PARTNER

TERADATA

**teradata.**

System Access

Request Access to this system

Exercises, Use Cases, and Labs

Accessing Teradata with Viewpoint/Teradata Studio

Teradata and Walton Enterprise Systems have a long history going back to the turn of the century.

Teradata has supported the attainment of data sets from our business partners through gifts of Teradata's proprietary database technology.

Walton Enterprise Systems would like to announce that, once again, Teradata has upgraded our systems to a (12+1) IntelliFlex 2.1 System with a 204TCore rating. With this gift, the Walton Enterprise Systems group will now host the cloud that supports Teradata University for Academics for affiliated institutions around the world. Access for courses at Walton Enterprise Systems and around the world became available in August 2020.

Enterprise Systems would like to thank Teradata for their gift and the installation help provided. To learn more about the Teradata offerings at the Walton College, please visit the Teradata University page on the Walton Enterprise Systems website.

<https://walton.uark.edu/enterprise/teradata-university-academics.php>

## WHERE IN THE WORLD IS...

DR. DAVID DOUGLAS



Dr. David Douglas retired in August 2017 after 42 years on faculty with the University of Arkansas. His initial appointment was in Industrial Engineering in 1975. He moved to what is now the Department of Information Systems (ISYS) in 1978 and served as its department chair from 1985 to 1997 and again as interim department chair in 2010. The department implemented its Ph.D. program and its Master of Information Systems program during his time as chair.

Dr. Douglas cherished teaching, working with industry, and applied research. Alongside winning numerous teaching and service awards, he was instrumental in obtaining significant gifts from Enterprise Systems platform partners IBM, Microsoft, SAP, Teradata, and SAS. He is known especially for his work and research in areas such as ERP, end-users, academic integrity, and analytics.

Since retirement, Dr. Douglas has remained engaged with ISYS, giving numerous presentations and workshops. Outside of the occasional presentation these days, you might find Dr. Douglas on his farm or traveling, which he loves.

# PUBLICATIONS

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- **Setia P.**, Bayus B. L., Rajagopalan B. (2020). The Takeoff of Open Source Software: A Signaling Perspective Based on Community Activities. *MIS Quarterly*, 44(3).
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# EVENTS

## UPCOMING

## PAST

- Blockchain for Business Conference, October 1-2, 2020
- Breakfast Social for Blockchain, ERP, Business Analytics students and companies, Sept. 29, 2020
- Enterprise System Advisory Council Meeting, Sept. 28, 2020
- Decentralized Identity and Credentials; BCoE Workshop, April 15, 2020
- Blockchain Fundamentals Workshop, March 4, 2020
- 2021 RZRBlock Virtual Hackathon Competition, March 5th-April 2nd. Kickoff Event, Friday March 5, 2021. Awards Ceremony, Friday April 9th.
- Women in IT Virtual Conference, April 7, 2021
- Information System Department of Walton College will host ICIS (International Conference on Information System) in Nashville, TN, December 2025.

## BLOCKCHAIN FOR BUSINESS CONFERENCE

"Creating the Internet of Value" was the third annual BCoE conference but the first virtual one, and the first major virtual conference on campus. During the two-day live-streaming conference, 34 featured speakers were distributed over 17 sessions and the afternoons were left open for networking. It was a huge success with 515 attendees through Brella, Facebook Live, and YouTube. 186 local and international organizations were represented, about 85% industry and 14% academic/student.

Special thanks to the BCoE's Kathryn Carlisle who really did all to make it what it was! All sessions reside on the Walton College YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjrNbvj6nUGm-tZB2d1uvNYjzIU0Urdk>

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

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Be epic.